

FAMILY FARE

LET'S TALK

Teen learns value of family, friends

By Anne Wheeler

Mars has long fascinated television scriptwriters, and it figures prominently again in The Family Channel's new movie *The Girl From Mars*, premiering Saturday, March 16.

The fourth planet from the sun became a popular topic of conversation in the late 1950s and early '60s with the introduction of creatures known as "Martians." The television series *My Favorite Martian*, featuring a curmudgeon with antennas protruding from his head, became a hit.

In *The Girl From Mars*, a bright, eccentric teenager named DeeDee is teased by townspeople that she must be from another planet. With hurt feelings, she sets out to prove they are right.

"I like the character of DeeDee," said Sarah Sawatsky, the 14-year-old actress who plays the role. "I am not as smart as her in science and things like that, but I can relate to her trying to fit in."

Feeling isolated from her busy dad, domineering older sister and schoolmates, she befriends a scientist named Charles, played by Eddie Albert (*Green Acres*).

Sawatsky is serious about the craft of acting. Crying scenes are always the most difficult for her. "I used to try to think of something sad in my life for a crying scene, but that never really worked. Now I think of what the character is sad about, and when I cry it's really natural."



Peter (Jon Tenny) faces his dad at his mother's funeral Wednesday on ABC's *Equal Justice*.

Mickey Rourke made switch from street fighting to acting

By Polly Vonetes

Q: Please give me some information on my favorite actor, Mickey Rourke. I have searched everywhere for information on him. I have seen all his movies. I would like to know his age, his residence, etc. — V.C., Pensacola, Fla.

A: Mickey Rourke was born in Schenectady, N.Y., in 1954. He spent much of his youth in a rough neighborhood in Miami, Fla., where he became very adept at street fighting. He considered a boxing career, but upon his return to New York City he decided to try acting. He signed up for acting classes with Sondra Seacat and later was accepted as a student at the Actors Studio. In 1980 he made his film debut with a small role in *1941*. Rourke has managed to keep working regularly, tending to play unstable and sometimes violent young men. He continues to make his home in New York City where he still finds time to exercise at his favorite gym.

Q: I've been watching *The Adventures of Robin Hood* on Showtime starring Michael Praed. I was wondering if you could tell me of any other shows I might see him in and any background information you may have on him. — Sandra Williams, Kingman, Ariz.

A: Thirty-year-old Michael Praed, an Englishman, spent much of his childhood in Iran, where his father's job as an accountant took him. Before accepting the role as Prince Michael on *Dynasty* in 1984, Praed appeared on Broadway in *The Three Musketeers*. Besides acting, he has musical talent and has even built his own recording studio where he hopes to turn out the "Great American Album."

Q: I am interested in writing to Jodie Sweetin on *Full House*. Could you please tell me what her address is and when her birthday is, and how old she is? She is my favorite actress. I am 6-years-old. Please answer my letter. — Jeff Adams, Oakley, Idaho

A: Jeff, your favorite actress, Jodie Sweetin, recently celebrated her ninth birthday. She was born on Jan. 19, 1982. Write her: c/o Lorimar Telepictures Production, 3970 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230.

Q: I was wondering if you could tell me the addresses of Joan Fontaine and



Mickey Rourke

Dick York. I would very much like to write to them. — Suzanne Strand, Flora, Ontario

A: I hope you understand I can not guarantee the addresses I send out. The stars frequently change their addresses for security reasons. Write to: Joan Fontaine, P.O. Box 222600, Carmel, CA 93923. I do not have any address for Dick York. However, write to the Screen Actors Guild, 7065 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90028 for information.

Q: I saw the first three or four episodes of *Simon & Simon*, also the reruns of same, and after maybe five episodes they changed the theme song. It was an actual recorded record, something to do with Mexico. Can you clear this up? — Pete Thiel, Fish Creek, Wis.

A: Throughout the seven-year run of *Simon & Simon*, the music was titled "The Theme from Simon & Simon," written by Harry DeVorzon and Michael (cq) Towers. I don't know that in the first episode their investigation leads them south of border to the Mexican seaside resort of Ensenada and the border town of Tijuana. Perhaps some Mexican music was added for effect. Their home base was in San Diego. Sorry, I can't be more explicit.

Send your questions about the world of entertainment to: Polly Vonetes, Let's Talk, P.O. Box 17748, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0748. Because of the volume of mail, only questions of general interest can be answered.

TV & Sports